

PLANNING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT

NARRATIVE REPORT

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WINONA DISTRICT, TREMPLEAU, WISCONSIN 54661

1973

PERSONNEL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
JERRY F. LEINECKE	REFUGE MANAGER	GS-9
Wm. J. THRUNE	BIOL. ASST. (SUMMER)	GS-4

APPROVED, REGIONAL OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

SUBMITTED BY:

*Jerry F. Leinecke*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*District Refuge Mgr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

*1/18/74*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

## Planning and Accomplishment Narrative

### Part I.

The last half of Fiscal Year 1973 failed to follow the normal pattern for weather conditions. It all began on January 3 & 4 when 13.5 inches of snow were dropped on the district. An unusual warming trend during the latter part of January caused almost all snow cover to disappear. February appeared to be normal, but the usual heavy snow falls of that month were missing. Instead of the predicted record flood water levels in March, only 1.6 feet of water appeared over the flood stage. April 9 & 10 brought about another unusual weather development, when two snowfalls brought 16.5 inches of wet snow to the area. This heavy snowfall caused a secondary flood crest in early May. With the earth saturated, every small rain shower caused the Trempealeau River to overflow its banks and thus submerge the entrance to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. A total of 6 weeks passed while the road was under water.

At the beginning of this second half of the year, the temperatures dropped below the zero mark for 10 consecutive days. The coldest day of the fiscal year occurred during this period, when the mercury dipped to a cool -25°. On the other hand, the fiscal year closed out with the longest run of 90°, or above, temperatures. In late June, readings were recorded at 93°, 90°, 94°, and 92°.

Through the long winter months, plans were developed to install new comfort stations at the Pontoon Slough Landing near Wabasha, Minn. Formal announcements were sent out and bids were received. The Reco Construction Co. of New Brighton, Minn were given the contract on June 28 for two comfort stations.

Plans were also formalized with the Onalaska, Wis. Unit of the National Guard, to prepare a right-of-way and later install a new two mile self-guiding auto route on the Trempealeau NWR. The route was designed by Miss Hilma Volk, Asst. Public Use Specialist from the Winona office. All work on the route would be contributed by the Guard Unit and we were to furnish the necessary materials. Work will begin in October or November of Fiscal 1974. A self-guiding tour brochure is now being prepared by Miss Volk.

Wm. J. "Bill" Thrune entered on duty as a summer Biological Assistant on June 24. He will be a valuable addition for the summer months. Bill has been employed at the Winona Warehouse during the preceding winter.

Much valuable equipment was either purchased or received on property transfer during the year. Office equipment, chairs, typewriters, desks, calculators and heaters were received during the spring months. These supplies now make working in the office just a little more bearable.

The District Manager was active during the week designated as National Wildlife Week. Over 7,100 area students, teachers, and area adults received a program and film presentation during the week. The manager also participated in the LaCrosse Districts annual Sport-O-Rama program and display during March.



The district took charge of an adult Golden Eagle on Jan. 19, when Wisconsin State Wardens and Dr. John Kemper from Chippawa Falls, Wisc. brought "Caesar" to the Trempealeau Refuge. The Eagle was turned over to Robert Bildér, a student at St. Mary's College of Winona. When three weeks of intensive care and rehabilitation failed to bring about much response, the bird was transferred to the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine where it is still residing.

A Bald Eagle came to the district via the same route, when the injured bird was transferred to Trempealeau on June 14. This bird was also transferred to the U of M Vet School for further care.

The Oak Wilt project which has been continuing since 1968 has come to a halt with the last of the funding being exhausted in May. Until more funds become available, cleanup of the Oak Wilt Virus infected trees not be furthered. Most of the infected area has been cleared, and the cleared lands now need burning and reseeding. Area Forester T. Al Johnson of Necedah NWR has been in charge of the project on the Trempealeau Refuge.

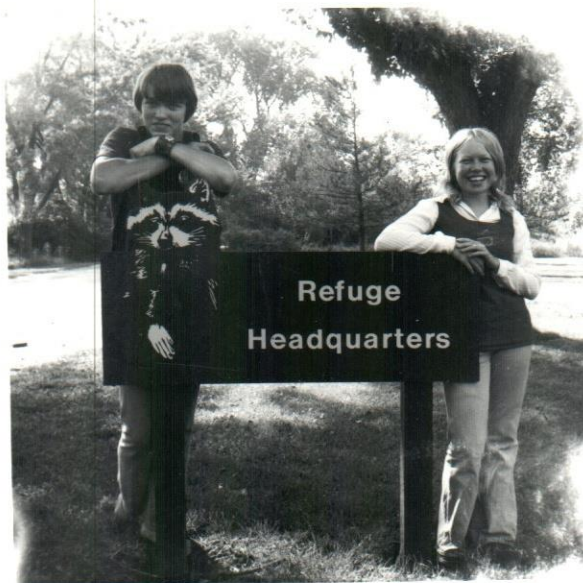
A Special Use Permit was issued to The Wayne Bros. of Durand, Wisc., on February 20. The permit covered the cutting and removing of approximately 153,000 board feet of maple, cottonwood, elm, willow, birch, and ash saw timber; and cutting and removing approximately 220 cords of mixed hardwood pulpwood. The refuge received payment of \$3,350.00 for the sale.

Spring migration held some unusual sightings this year. The usual high concentration of migrating Whistling Swans in the Weaver Marsh area did not appear. Only 375 birds were counted at the peak. This compares to the usual 3 to 4 thousand. Canvasback ducks were turning up on the district with unusual color markings. Brown, pink, yellow, and blue were the colors noted on some of the birds. Reports were filed with the Winona Office and they in turn routed the sighting reports to the proper banding agent. Reports could be kept current with the bird movements, because of the weekly waterfowl census that is conducted on the district throughout the year. Visits to the two Great Blue Heron/American Egret Rookeries on the district, began in early March. It was expected that the first visit, this early, would find no birds in the area. This would give exact data as to arrival dates. Instead, there were 20 birds already staking out nesting sites. The March 5 date is a very early date for this area.

A brief statement concerning the routine spring activities on the district is included. Trapping and litter law enforcement, checking for violations on over 400 Special Use Permits, posting boundaries and district sandbars, gathering in and collecting for the district grazing permits, checking and repairing district boat access areas, repairing and cleaning the 16 district comfort stations, and conducting many guided tours of the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge are just a few of the major routine duties of the district that are to be performed each Spring.



William J. "Bill" Thrune, was assigned to the Winona District as a summer Biological Assistant. Bill is a Junior at Winona State College, Winona, Minn. Throughout the summer, he demonstrated that he is a very capable individual. His presence was missed during the fall months.



Les and Donna Mickelson of Trempealeau, Wisc. were hired under the NYC program to aid the summer staff in the accomplishments of its goals.





St. Mary's College student Robert Bilder holds tightly to a red-tailed hawk which he found on the ground in a weakened condition on the Trempealeau Refuge. The bird was cared for over a two week period, then banded and released.

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"Julia", an immature bald eagle was turned over to the management of the Trempealeau Refuge. It had been shot near Chippewa Falls, Wisc. Dr. Charles Kemper recovered the bird and nursed it back to health. The wing had healed crooked, thus flight was not possible. Julia was turned over to the Univ. of Minn. Vet. School.



SAVE ONE - "Dexter" the great-horned owl was found as a fuzzy hatchling by an elementary student from the local school. The bird was raised by college student Robert Bilder. When flight stage was obtained, the owl was banded and released to the wild. Dexter hung around the headquarters area for awhile before leaving and trying it on his own. Leinecke: 1050-4.



LOSE ONE - A young trapper discovered this owl hanging upside down in a tree, held by the trap chain. The bird had traveled about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the water area before succumbing to man and his invention. Leinecke: 1050-3.





The U.S. Army Reserve Unit from Onalaska, Wisconsin brought in much heavy equipment, and utilized it in constructing a new self-guiding auto route on the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. The route has not yet been completed, but a small amount of rock has been hauled in. Leinecke: 1048-2.



The District Manager completed his fourth Hunter Safety Class as Chief Instructor. Two teaching assistants and two local conservation wardens aided in qualifying 33 Trempealeau youngsters for the Wisc. H.S.C.. Nearly 100 students have been presented the certificate on the district by the District Manager. Leinecke: 1048-1.



# I. GENERAL

## A. Weather Conditions

MONTH	Precipitation			Temperature			
	Total	Normal	Snowfall	Max.	Min.	Mean	Normal
						Av.	Mean Av.
January	2.00	1.17	15.5	52	-25	16.2	17.3
February	.95	.97	5.7	45	-15	22.6	18.2
March	3.35	1.62	2.3	66	21	39.2	32.2
April	6.83	2.31	16.5	73	15	43.2	47.7
May	6.98	4.60	1.7	80	28	53.1	56.5
June	3.55	4.70		94	49	68.9	68.8
July	3.86	3.70		99	53	72.8	75.4
August	8.12	3.60		94	48	70.6	69.5
September	3.80	1.55		89	31	60.2	63.5
October	1.89	2.49		81	29	55.9	46.3
November	2.92	1.61	1.0	66	11	34.6	35.1
December	2.00	1.11	10.8	51	-20	17.3	21.3
Annual Totals	45.07	29.43	53.50	99	-25	46.2	45.99

The year opened up with a greeting of 13.5 inches of snow on Jan. 3-4. Precipitation followed in almost every form, with tiresome regularity, throughout the subsequent 12 months. The weather produced nearly a dozen records during the year. The excesses for the year included paralyzing blizzards, downpours, sleet, hail, and fogs.

Despite monthly fluctuations above and below normal, the mean temperature for the entire year was 46, just a shade above the normal mean of 45.9. During the year, moisture in the form of rain or melting snow exceeded normal levels - as much as nearly three times higher in one month - and the total yield for the year was 45.07 inches, compared with a normal 12-month figure of 29.43 inches. Shallow frost penetration, as well as warm Feb. and March days, allowed an orderly surface runoff during the spring, and the Mississippi River Crested in Winona, Minn. on March 20 at 14.6 feet, only 1.6 feet above flood stage. Sixteen inches of snow in April caused the river to crest again in May at 11.1 feet.

The hottest day of the year was July 8 when the temperature soared to the 99 degree mark. The coldest day was January 12 when the mercury dipped to -25 degrees.

On July 30, a fierce electrical storm, accompanied by high winds, rain, and hail swept through the area. Crop damage from this storm was estimated at over 500,000 dollars alone in the Wabasha, Minn. area next to the refuge.



B. Habitat Conditions  
1. Water

POOL LEVELS

Pool No. 5 at Control Point #5, Below L/D#4, Alma, Wis. Normal: 660.00 Ft./Tail 667.00 Ft./Head

MONTH	HIGHEST LEVEL	LOWEST LEVEL	AVERAGE LEVEL	DATES OF HIGH LEVEL	DATES OF LOW LEVEL
January	660.85	660.20	660.53	1/20/73	1/31/73
February	660.30	659.84	660.07	2/03/73	2/18/73
March	666.42	659.84	663.13	3/19/73	3/01/73
April	662.84	661.07	661.96	4/01/73	4/29/73
May	663.96	661.02	662.49	5/06/73	5/25/73
June	662.45	659.91	661.18	6/01/73	6/30/73
July	660.38	659.94	660.16	7/27/73	7/01/73
August	660.50	659.95	660.23	8/05/73	8/28/73
September	660.60	660.06	660.33	9/27/73	9 /14/73
October	661.75	660.25	661.00	10/20/73	10/08/73
November	660.96	659.96	660.46	11/28/73	11/14/73
December	660.96	659.48	660.22	12/01/73	12/17/73

In the overall view, 1973 was just about a carbon copy of 1972. Cold, wet, and Windy marked the majority of the year. The heavy snowfalls during the last part of '72 insulated the ground enough to prevent deep frost penetration. During the spring thaw, much of the water was soaked up or else drained off orderly. Pool levels remained fairly constant throughout the year, except for two periods. Pool levels historically are high during the March/April flood period. This year, due to a over 16 inches of snow in April, the river pools were high again in May and June. This late rise may prove to be harmful to the Muskrat populations in the pools. Aquatic plants continue to show a decrease in the pools, especially the Weaver Bottoms in Pool 5. Most of the pool potholes are in good aquatic vegetative conditions. Seed production of the aquatics appeared to be good this year. Waterfowl were observed feeding heavily on submergent tubers and wild celery, moreso this year than previously. Deer browse was excellent, The winter was relatively mild for the deer herds and the browse lines on the trees was barely visible. There was no crusted snow this year and the deer were not pressured by long periods of a deep snow. Upland corn and other crop production in the area was excellent.



## COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE

Refuge: Winona District

Period: January - April 1973

Species	Peak Numbers		Percent of Change		Peak Dates*	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE		Percent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase		1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Mallard	6,000	8,000		33	4-15 : 4-21	116,702	276,535		100 <sup>+</sup>
Black	600	2,510		100 <sup>+</sup>	4-1 : 3-24	17,440	80,815		100 <sup>+</sup>
Gadwall	300	600		100	4-15 : 4-14	5,245	16,820		100 <sup>+</sup>
Baldpate	700	1,000		43	4-15 : 4-14	16,000	29,435		84
Pintail	300	600		100	4-15 : 4-14	3,770	10,220		100 <sup>+</sup>
G.w.teal	500	725		45	4-15 : 4-14	7,920	14,175		79
B.w.teal	850	3,550		100 <sup>+</sup>	4-15 : 4-28	19,045	39,795		100 <sup>+</sup>
Shoveler	590	705		19	4-15 : 4-21	9,550	10,255		7
Wood duck	900	5,250		100 <sup>+</sup>	4-15 : 4-21	26,275	122,010		100 <sup>+</sup>
Redhead	400	900		100 <sup>+</sup>	4-15 : 4-14	6,770	23,345		100 <sup>+</sup>
Ring-neck	4,000	2,700	33		4-15 : 4-14	51,045	93,720		64
Canvasback	3,525	10,950		28	4-15 : 3-24	95,975	245,560		100 <sup>+</sup>
L.scaup	10,000	4,700	53		4-15 : 4-14	125,230	121,660	31	
Golden-eye	900	750	17		4-15 : 3-10	22,730	21,805		4
Bufflehead	500	600		20	4-15 : 4-7	7,225	15,400		100 <sup>+</sup>
Ruddy	600	200	67		4-15 : 4-7	8,270	3,605	56	
Mergansers	1,800	1,650	8		4-15 : 3-10	43,979	59,150		34
Old squaw									
Scoters									
Unident.									
TOTALS	37,465	45,390		21		633,171	1,174,355		85

#Week ending.

Comments:



COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE  
 Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT  
 Period: MAY - AUGUST 1973

Species	Peak Numbers		Percent of Change		Peak Dates*	TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE		Percent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase		1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Mallard	1,700	3,150		85 <sup>+</sup>	9-2 : 5-5	113,815	294,875		100 <sup>+</sup>
Black	150	750		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	6,814	35,350		100 <sup>+</sup>
Gadwall	100	90	10		5-6 : 5-5	1,065	1,260		18
Baldpate	75	275		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	1,425	4,935		100 <sup>+</sup>
Pintail	75	100		33	5-6 : 5-5	755	1,295		72
G.w.teal	350	600		71	5-6 : 9-1	26,415	23,415	11	
B.w.teal	450	3000		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	34,890	119,175		100 <sup>+</sup>
Shoveler	300	300		0	5-6 : 5-5	5,914	6,655		13
Wood duck	3,600	5,000		39	9-2 : 5-5	235,715	486,150		100 <sup>+</sup>
Redhead	5	50		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	35	525		100 <sup>+</sup>
Ring-neck	100	525		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	770	5,950		100 <sup>+</sup>
Canvasback	200	2000		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	1475	21,595		100 <sup>+</sup>
L.scaup	1,100	600	45 <sup>+</sup>		5-6 : 5-5	11,445	6,895	40	
Golden-eye	80	—	100 <sup>+</sup>		5-6 : —	245	—	100	
Bufflehead	20	50		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	175	595		100 <sup>+</sup>
Ruddy	25	10	60		5-6 : 5-5	245	105	57	
Mergansers	410	900		100 <sup>+</sup>	5-6 : 5-5	30,190	77,315		100 <sup>+</sup>
Old squaw									
Scoters									
Unident.									
TOTALS	8,680	17,400		100 <sup>+</sup>		471,388	1,086,090		100 <sup>+</sup>

\*Week ending.

Comments:



COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE  
 Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT  
 Period: September - December - 1972

Species	Peak Numbers		Percent of Change		Peak Dates*		TOTAL DUCK DAYS USE		Percent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase	1972	1973	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Mallard	5,110	5,295		4	10-14	11-10	276,680	352,940		28
Black	800	1,850		100	9-23	11-10	41,720	96,425		100
Gadwall	800	800		-	10-21	11-10	32,515	42,385		30
Baldpate	3,500	2,950	16		10-7	9-22	111,895	79,100	29	
Pintail	800	2,550		100	10-14	11-10	30,170	107,240		100
G.w.teal	550	1,000		82	10-7	9-29	23,940	43,715		83
B.w.teal	925	2,795		100	10-14	10-15	43,050	84,840		97
Shoveler	500	325	35		10-7	11-10	11,900	8,610	28	
Wood duck	4,000	4,525		13	9-9	9-22	135,660	169,785		25
Redhead	1,000	1,000		-	10-21	10-20	19,635	22,330		14
Ring-neck	2,000	4,200		100	10-28	10-20	85,400	127,575		49
Carvasback	5,750	10,000		74	10-21	10-20	173,250	262,980		52
L.scaup	4,000	3,200			11-11	10-27	123,200	100,380	19	
Golden-eye	750	700	7		11-25	12-1	23,653	33,565		42
Bufflehead	375	425		13	10-21	11-24	8,680	13,930		60
Ruddy	100	210		100	10-21	11-3	3,885	6,755		74
Mergansers	6,760	7,000			11-25	12-22	129,885	144,515		11
Old squaw	NONE	NONE		-	NONE		NONE	NONE		-
Scoters	5	NONE	100		9-30		35	NONE	100	
Unident.										
TOTALS	37,725	48,825		29			1,275,153	1,697,080		33

\*Week ending.

Comments:



## COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE

Refuge: Winona District

Period: January - April - 1973

Species	Peak Numbers		Per cent of Change		Peak Dates*		TOTAL DAYS USE		Per cent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase	1972	1973	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Canada geese (l.p.)	625	395	37		4-15	3-24	13,295	7070	47	
Cackling										
White-fronted	15	0	100		4-15	-	137	0	100	
Snow	5	2	60		4-15	4-14	67	14	79	
Blue	5	5	0	0	4-15	3-24	67	35	48	
TOTALS	650	402	38				13,616	7119	48	

Comments:

Coot	9,500	10,000		5	4-22	4-14	152,620	168,735		11
Florida gallinule	15	25		67	4-29	4-28	304	434		43
Whistling swan	7,100	375	95		4-15	4-21	86,665	9114	89	

Comments:



## COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE

Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT

Period: MAY - August 1973

Species	Peak Numbers		Per cent of Change		Peak Dates*		TOTAL DAYS USE		Per cent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase	1972	1973	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Canada geese (lg.)	10	-	100 <sup>+</sup>		5-6	-	105	-	100 <sup>+</sup>	
Cackling										
White-fronted										
Snow										
Blue										
TOTALS	10	-	100 <sup>+</sup>				105	-	100 <sup>+</sup>	

Comments:

Coot	3,000	1500	50		5-6	5-5	67,850	58,975	13	
Florida gallinule	30	40	0	33	6-3	6-30	2,450	4,249		73
Whistling swan	275	75	73		5-6	5-5	2,135	735	66	

Comments:



COMPARISON OF PEAK NUMBERS, PEAK DATES, AND TOTAL DAYS USE  
 Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT  
 Period: September - December - 1973

Species	Peak Numbers		Per cent of Change		Peak Dates*		TOTAL DAYS USE		Per cent of Change	
	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase	1972	1973	1972	1973	Decrease	Increase
Canada geese (14.)	800	675	16		10-21	10-20	29,267	26,950	8	
Cackling										
White-fronted	10	15		50	10-21	10-20	147	210		43
Snow	10	400		100+	11-4	10-20	300	3488		100+
Blue	15	400		100+	11-4	10-20	414	3489		100+
TOTALS	835	1490		78			30,128	34,137		13

Comments:

Coot	30,000	50,000		67	9-30	10-13	1,219,400	1,645,770		35
Florida gallinule	30	38		27	9-30	9-1	1,190	1911		61
Whistling Swan	7,770	2,620	66		11-18	11-24	206,311	89,124	57	

Comments:



PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE

Refuge: *Winona District*

Period: *January-April-1973*

Species	Percent of total duck day use					
	19 <i>71</i>		19 <i>72</i>		19 <i>73</i>	
	% of use	Order	% of use	Order	% of use	Order
Mallard	<i>1.40</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>23.6</i>	<i>1</i>
Black duck	<i>4.0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>6</i>
Gadwall	<i>0.96</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0.82</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>12</i>
Baldpate	<i>6.1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>9</i>
Pintail	<i>0.71</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0.59</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0.870</i>	<i>16</i>
G.w.teal	<i>2.4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>14</i>
B.w.teal	<i>3.4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>8</i>
Shoveler	<i>2.6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.871</i>	<i>15</i>
Wood duck	<i>3.8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>3</i>
Redhead	<i>1.1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>10</i>
Ring-neck	<i>9.3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>5</i>
Canvasback	<i>7.7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>2</i>
Lesser scaup	<i>22.0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>4</i>
Golden-eye	<i>6.3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>11</i>
Bufflehead	<i>0.74</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>13</i>
Ruddy	<i>0.64</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>17</i>
Mergansers	<i>9.1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>7</i>
Old squaw	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>				
Scoters						

Comments:



PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE

Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT

Period: MAY - AUGUST 1973

Species	Percent of total duck day use							
	1971		1972		1973			
	% of use	Order	% of use	Order	% of use	Order		
Mallard	22.6	2	24.1	2	27.0	2		
Black duck	0.94	7	1.4	7	3.25	5		
Gadwall	0.13	10	0.22	11	0.120	13		
Baldpate	0.71	9	0.30	10	0.45	11		
Pintail	0.09	11	0.11	12	0.121	12		
G.w.teal	4.9	4	5.5	5	2.16	6		
B.w.teal	6.27	3	7.4	3	10.97	3		
Shoveler	2.71	5	1.2	8	0.61	9		
Wood duck	58.7	1	50.0	1	44.76	1		
Redhead	0.009	14	0.007	17	0.05	14		
Ring-neck	0.07	12	0.02	16	0.55	10		
Canvasback	NONE	NONE	0.31	9	1.99	7		
Lesser scaup	2.0	6	2.4	6	0.63	8		
Golden-eye	0.018	13	0.05	13	NONE	NONE		
Bufflehead	NONE	NONE	0.03	15	0.051	16		
Ruddy	NONE	NONE	0.05	14	0.01	15		
Mergansers	0.85	8	6.4	4	7.12	4		
Old squaw								
Scoters								

Comments:



## PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION BY SPECIES OF TOTAL DUCK DAY USE

Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT

Period: September - December 1973

Species	Percent of Total Duck Day Use					
	1971		1972		1973	
	% of Use	Order	% of Use	Order	% of Use	Order
Mallard	17.6	1	21.7	1	21.1	1
Black duck	2.66	9	3.2	10	5.68	8
Gadwall	2.07	11	2.5	11	2.50	12
Baldpate	8.3	6	8.7	6	4.66	10
Pintail	2.05	12	2.3	12	6.32	6
G.w. teal	2.1	10	1.8	13	2.58	11
B.w. teal	2.67	8	3.4	9	5.00	9
Shoveler	0.89	15	0.93	16	0.51	16
Wood duck	15.2	2	10.6	3	10.00	3
Redhead	1.1	14	1.5	15	1.32	14
Ring-neck	9.1	5	6.6	8	7.52	5
Canvasback	15.1	3	13.5	2	15.50	2
Lesser scaup	12.7	4	9.6	5	5.91	7
Goldeneye	1.8	13	1.7	14	1.98	13
Bufflehead	0.55	16	6.7	7	0.82	15
Ruddy	0.36	17	0.20	17	0.40	17
Mergansers	5.7	7	10.1	4	8.52	4
Old squaw	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	-	
Scoter	.004	18	.002	18	-	

Comments:



## WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: Winona District  
Period: January - April - 1973

Week of Period:	19 69	19 70	19 71	19 72	19 73
1	7	247	18	185	490
2	102	182	31	50	3850
3	64	229	26	32	567
4	98	152	30	27	798
5	99	141	41	15	1085
6	125	137	46	35	1330
7	168	121	130	69	2310
8	187	183	464	102	4305
9	282	246	507	165	10,955
10	314	394	550	520	30,310
11	1610	795	805	1,555	64,925
12	5990	2,735	1,570	5,965	197,365
13	22,800	59,451	27,240	8,510	136,990
14	33,920	79,880	26,295	20,635	171,220
15	19,475	43,080	53,470	32,165	223,370
16	8,840	23,675	27,425	18,175	195,930
17	7,425	8,790	8,780	8,490	132,020
18	5,940				
TOTAL DAYS USE	752,644	1,281,536	936,216	633,171	1,174,355

\* Indicates peak concentration

COMMENTS:



## WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT

Period: MAY - AUGUST 1973

Week of period:	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
1	1,570	2,815	4,470	5,755	16,980
2	1,340	1,670	2,350	3,385	12,850
3	1,180	1,455	1,880	2,965	8,870
4	1,110	1,305	1,535	2,445	6,890
5	1,140	1,460	1,600	2,175	6,325
6	1,640	1,520	1,790	1,945	6,200
7	1,640	1,600	1,870	2,187	5,980
8	1,890	1,755	2,270	2,427	6,220
9	2,270	1,975	2,500	2,695	6,980
10	2,940	2,445	2,830	3,150	7,250
11	3,290	3,165	2,965	3,495	7,755
12	3,240	4,090	3,150	4,040	8,110
13	3,445	4,580	3,415	4,620	8,385
14	4,245	4,725	3,905	4,600	8,600
15	4,635	5,545	4,625	4,995	8,695
16	5,155	6,175	5,345	5,570	9,015
17	5,675	7,360	6,140	6,040	9,805
18				6,630	10,260
TOTAL DAYS USE:	319,805	363,925	359,865	474,388	1,086,090

\*Indicates peak concentration.

COMMENTS:



# WEEKLY DUCK POPULATIONS AND PEAK NUMBERS

Refuge: WINONA DISTRICT

Period: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1973

Week of period:	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
1	8,100	8,240	6,810	9,150	11,140
2	9,450	8,240	8,430	8,985	14,570
3	12,725	9,095	9,100	10,290	16,050
4	17,425	10,720	6,995	11,185	14,960
5	22,800	14,590	8,045	15,480	12,205
6	21,225	18,705	10,095	17,560	23,055
7	36,025	15,655	16,870	21,330	28,715
8	23,525	13,580	16,910	16,690	21,460
9	16,630	13,210	39,900	17,390	15,905
10	15,000	12,725	19,585	19,560	19,010
11	6,355	13,100	15,080	14,470	15,490
12	2,170	12,452	10,255	12,260	12,630
13	2,385	8,535	3,640	7,110	9,090
14	17,470	10,640	6,080	795	8,910
15	4,340	5,305	6,430	195	8,270
16	2,095	2,400	3,870	75	8,340
17	965	1,695	1,700	75	2,550
18	525	285	545	-	-
TOTAL DAYS USE:	1,397,295	1,134,845	1,235,215	1,275,153	1,697,080

\*Indicates peak concentration.

COMMENTS:



Refuge: Winona District  
Period: Calendar Year 1973

### B. Upland Game Birds

SPECIES	:POPULATION:	YOUNG	: NUMBER :	GREATEST	:TAKE:	LOSS:	POPULATION
	: JAN. 1	:PRODUCED:	STOCKED:	NO. PRESENT:			: DEC. 31
Ring-necked:							
Pheasant :	115	70	40	185	25	35	125
Ruffed							
grouse :	155	100		225	25	25	175
Bob-white :							
quail :	45	25		65		15	50
Gray							
partridge:							
Wild							
turkey :							

The Trempealeau County Associated Sportsmens Club received 5,600 day old pheasant chicks on June 4, 1973. During the last week of August and the first week of Sept. they released 5,060 adult birds into areas within the county. About 70 of these birds were released or escaped onto the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Only one covey of Bob-white Quail was observed this year. This is down from the three groups observed last year. It is believed that the quail population is stable or at best gaining slightly. Highbush Cranberry planted on the Trempealeau Refuge is a winter haven for the Ruffed Ruffed Grouse. Numbers seem to be growing steadily.

### Big Game Animals (White-tailed deer)

	POPULATION:	YOUNG	: GREATEST	:HUNTER:	LOSSES:	POPULATION
	JAN. 1	:PRODUCED	:NO. PRESENT	: TAKE :		: DEC. 31
White-tailed Deer - -	125	200	675	70	15	465

The district deer populations seemed to expand greatly this year. The fall 1972 hunting season was relatively light on the herds, and numbers of deer were observed throughout the year in the wooded areas of the bottomlands. 1973 hunting season again took a light toll on the deer, although two radio-collared deer from the Trempealeau Refuge herd were taken. One during the shotgun season and one during the Bow & Arrow season. The 1973 winter was very good for the wintering deer herds on the refuge. There was deep snow at various times, but each was followed by a warming trend which kept browse available. Minnesota conducted its second 30 day hunting season and for the second year it proved quite successful. This years take in the state was 67,106 as compared to 72,600 taken during the 1972 hunt. Wisconsin maintained its 9 day hunt and bagged nearly 75,000 animals. This figure is relatively constant with last years results when about 76,500 were taken.



## VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Use

19 73	FISHING	MISCEL- LANEOUS	HUNTING			TOTAL DAYS USE
			DUCKS	DEER	OTHER	
Spring	15,935	11,685			12	27,632
Summer	45,005	106,048				151,053
Fall	52,620	22,556	15,980	740	383	92,279
TOTAL DAYS USE	113,560	140,289	15,980	740	395	270,964 *

\* - Total does not include 1,352 spring trappers and 6,487 fall trappers.

Public use for the year was up again during 1973. Figures recorded throughout the year indicate that use was up by about 30%. During the year, the visiting public was forced to put up with rain and cool weather. When the weather was favorable for heading to the beaches and sandbars, the visitors rushed there in large numbers. Major differences in numbers from last year were recorded in fall fishing, spring fishing, all seasons of miscellaneous activity, and most hunting.

The walleyes really began biting during the late fall months. Fishermen flocked to the wing dams and the auxiliary locks of the major locks & dams. On many instances the limit was caught within  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after arriving. The word spread quickly, and the numbers zoomed. During the winter months of Jan.- March, ice fishing flourished with great zeal. Ice housed appeared in more than average numbers. Fishing was good and so was the weather for this activity.

Throughout the entire year, a great difference in wildlife observation & sightseeing occurred. This year, the two use categories were separated and counted individually. The addition of the sightseers and the step up of the Trempealeau Refuge EE Program account for most of the major changes in numbers for the misc. category.

Weekday openers in both Wisconsin and Minnesota during the waterfowl season brought a drop in number of hunters visiting the marshes. Figures indicate that waterfowl hunting was down about 30% for the year. Also accounting for the reduction, was the lack of cooperating ducks in the area. After a first couple of weeks of pretty fair hunting, the ducks moved on and the hunters became discouraged. By the last couple of weeks, only the dyed-in-the-wool true hunter remained to be counted. Deer hunting was down a few percent from 1972, but much of the drop could be from a lack of sufficient data accumulating during the seasons. The data gathering process was tied up, because of the local whistling swan population at Weaver Marsh. The manager was involved more with the swans than gathering hunting data this year.

Although no RBU's are awarded for the activity, a special record is kept on the trapping activity on the district. This year, the prices for pelts were up again and a record number of trappers took to the field. Bad weather forced many of the trappers home early, but activity visits remained the same as last year.



Refuge: Winona District  
Period: Calendar Year 1973

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents, and Other Mammals

SPECIES	: POPULATION : : JAN. 1	: YOUNG : : PRODUCED	: GREATEST : : NO. PRESENT	: TAKE	: CON- : : TROL	: LOSS	: POPULATION : : DEC. 31
Muskrat	20,700	49,900	69,000	31,000		7,600	21,850
Mink	50	12	80	10		2	68
Beaver	620	325	1,025	421		75	845
Otter	25	3	25	0		5	14
Raccoon	650	1,235	1,875	400		100	985
Red Fox	150	50	500	185		20	230 <del>150</del>
Gray Fox	12	15	50	10		5	35
Skunk	145	60	250	20		10	185
Cotton- tail	165	45	210	30		15	185
Rabbit							
Opossum	m 90	30	120	5		20	100
Gray & Fox	1,525	925	4,325	400		375	2,890
Squirrels:							
Woodchuck:	23	10	90	5		5	75
Badger	8	3	11	0		2	8

Muskrat populations were fairly stable this year. The 1972 estimated take figured about 33,500 rats. Final report figures showed a take of 26,500 rats. The number of trappers was up during the 1973 season to 254, from last years record 245. Prices on rats also reached near record prices, with some dealers paying over \$3,50 a pelt. Estimated take for 1973 is around 31,000 rats. The figures taken from the received reports for this year indicate an average take of 123 rats per trapper. ~~123~~ This is up from last years 120/trapper. Wisconsin held a '73 Beaver season, but Minnesota did not. The chart above indicates the beaver take. Fox and Raccoon pelt prices were extremely high. Coons about \$20-30, and Fox \$30-40.



3-175

Form NR-8

(Rev. Jan. 1956)

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Branch of Wildlife Refuges

CULTIVATED CROPS - HAYING - GRAZING

Refuge WINONA DISTRICT County Buttalo + Wabasha State Wisc. + Minn.

Cultivated Crops Grown	<u>Permittee's Share Harvested</u>		<u>Government's Share or Return</u>				Total Acreage Planted	Green Manure, Cover and Water-fowl Browsing Crops Type and Kind	Total Acreage
	Acres	Bu./Tons	A Acres	Bu./Tons	<u>Harvested</u>	<u>Unharvested</u>			
Nothing									
								Fallow Ag. Land	

No. of Permittees: Agricultural Operations

## Haying Operations

## Grazing Operations

3

Hay - Improved (Specify Kind)	Tons Harvested	Acres	Cash Revenue	GRAZING	Number Animals	AUM'S	Cash Revenue	ACREAGE
NONE				1. Cattle	162	77.8	77.80	200
				2. Other				
				1. Total Refuge Acreage Under Cultivation				
Hay - Wild				2. Acreage Cultivated as Service Operation				



## TIMBER REMOVAL

Refuge WINONA DISTRICT Year 1943

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Acreage	No. of Units Expressed in B. F., ties, etc.	Rate of Charge	Total Income	Reservations and/or Diameter Limits	Species Cut
John M. Siegel	T-01-73	TREMPERMAN NW 1/4	—	1 cord	2.50/cord	2.50	Personal use only	Dead Oak
Robert Berk + Sons	T-02-73	"	—	5 cords	1.00/cord	5.00	"	"
WAYNE BROTHERS	SUP# 265	UPPER MISS ZUMBRO BTMS	65	153 MBF - SAWT. MBL 220 Cords - Pulpwood	FLAT RATE	\$ 3,350. <sup>00</sup>	Commercial use	Cottonwood, Elm Maple, Willow, Ash Birch

Total acreage cut over.....

Total income ~~3,357.~~ 50

No. of units removed B. F. ....

Method of slash disposal NONECords 6

Ties .....